

United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

## San Juan National Forest

### News & Events

#### **Fire Restrictions in Place for Some BLM and National Forest Lands in Southwest Colorado**

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### DURANGO INTERAGENCY FIRE DISPATCH

U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Colorado State Forest Service

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 29, 2011**

#### **FIRE RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE FOR SOME BLM AND NATIONAL FOREST LANDS IN SOUTHWEST COLORADO**

*(See attached maps **depicting east and west portions** of San Juan Public Lands closure areas)*

In cooperation with Archuleta, La Plata Montezuma and Dolores counties, the Southern Ute Indian Agency and Mesa Verde National Park, fire restrictions will go into effect on Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup> for lower elevation and southern portions of the San Juan National Forest and BLM lands. Fire managers feel the restrictions are necessary due to continued high temperatures, low humidity, high winds and dry fuels.

Stage 1 fire restrictions will be in effect on San Juan Public Lands:

south of U.S. Highway 160 between Pagosa Springs and Mancos;  
west of State Highway 84 from Pagosa to the New Mexico line;  
south of State Highway 184 from Mancos to Dolores; and  
southwest of the Dolores River from McPhee Reservoir to the San Miguel County line.

This means that, for Canyons of the Ancient National Monument, McPhee Reservoir, the Dolores River, HD Mountains and other public lands in the above described area:

campfires are limited to permanent fire rings or grates within developed campgrounds; smoking is limited to vehicles, buildings, or 3-foot wide areas cleared of vegetation; chainsaws and other internal-combustion engines must have approved, working spark arresters; acetylene and other torches with an open flame are prohibited; and the use of explosives is prohibited.

“The restriction boundaries take into account that elevations below 8,000 feet are extremely dry, while upper elevations remain green, often with patches of snow and running water,” said Craig Goodell, San Juan Public Lands Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist. “We have prepositioned additional firefighting resources in our area as a precaution, including initial attack crews and engines, and a Single Engine Air Tanker is currently based in Durango.”

Since March, the Durango Interagency Fire Dispatch Center has responded to 27 human-caused fires in southwest Colorado this season. Recent forecasts call for the arrival of the monsoon season in early July, but initial surges of monsoon moisture may bring lightning with little moisture.

Fire managers recommend following these safety tips, even if you are not within the restricted areas:

Dispose of cigarette butts in an ashtray or other appropriate container.

Make sure chainsaws have working spark arresters, and carry water, a shovel, and fire extinguisher when cutting firewood.

Park your vehicle in areas cleared of vegetation, not over dry grasses.

If you are in an area where campfires are allowed, use an established fire ring away from dry grass and dead trees, keep a shovel and water handy,

Always put campfires completely out every time you leave camp. Pour water on the ashes and stir until there is no smoke and ashes are cool to the touch.

Fireworks are not allowed on public lands, even when restrictions are not in place.

For more information, contact the San Juan Public Lands office nearest you.

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